GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2365
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2004
PURCHASE OF SURGICALS ITEMS BY PATIENTS
Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that patients undergoing surgery treatment in AIIMS are being asked to purchase certain surgical items from the market even though they are available with AIIMS;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that patients, especially poor ones, are not asked to purchase any item received for hospitalisation ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c): In AIIMS, New Delhi, patients attending emergency/casualty are provided with all surgical consumables including the items IV fluids, bandages, etc. No patients attending the casualty/emergency is asked to buy any surgical consumable items from the market. The patients admitted in the general wards are issued surgical items like injection, syringes and gauze, intravenous drips from the hospital. All essential surgical items are provided to the patients requiring emergency surgical treatment. In addition, high cost of antibiotics and nutrition supplements etc. are also procured and given to the poor indigent patients. Surgical consumable required for various elective surgical procedures including joint replacement surgeries, cochlear implants etc., the patients are required to buy requisite surgical consumables themselves. For cardio-thoracic and neuro surgical procedures, AIIMS has a package system which includes the cost of surgical consumables used in surgical procedure. Patients who can not afford to buy medicines and surgical items are also helped through National illness Assistance Fund and more like Prime Minister`s Relief Fund, Health Minister`s Discretionary Grant and other philanthropist organisations.